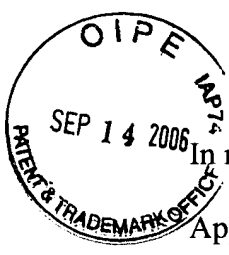


AP 211



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

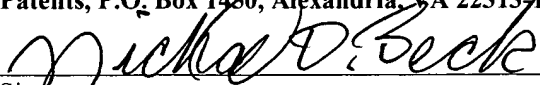
In re application of: Johnson et al.)	
)	Examiner: Ralph A. Lewis
Application No.: 10/623,791)	
)	Art Unit: 3732
)	
Filed: July 21, 2003)	Confirmation. Number 6098
)	
TISSUE DISTRACTION DEVICE)	September 11, 2006

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Consideration of the following amendment and remarks is requested. A Final Office Action was issued on August 28, 2006. This response is being filed within two months of the mailing date so no fees are believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is requested to provide any extension of time that may be required and is authorized to deduct any associated fees from Deposit Account 13-0014.

<p align="center">Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on <u>September 11, 2006</u>.</p> <p> _____ Signature</p> <p><u>Michael D. Beck</u> Typed or printed name of person of signing Certificate</p>
